

Volume 9 Number 3

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# CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College  
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



**Feature:**  
**Cornish Miners in California**

## One Hundred Years of Labor in the Valley

During the past century, organized labor in the Santa Clara Valley has changed dramatically, mirroring the valley's change from an agricultural heartland to a diverse urban center. During the 19th century, workers at the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine were the first in the valley to organize, and in 1888 the Federation of Trades became the county's first central labor organization, representing craft trades from cigarmakers and brewers to bakers and carpenters.

The twentieth century saw the Federation change its name to the Central Labor Council, and craft unions were joined by new unions representing thousands of valley cannery workers. The 1947 Labor Day Parade was the largest parade ever held in San Jose, and the valley began to shift away from agriculture. Since World War Two new unions organized to represent workers in a growing service sector and government, replacing many of the earlier craft organizations and the cannery workers, while other workers found prosperity without organization. Nevertheless, valley unions and the Central Labor Council continue to be a central part of the story of people's work and their search for better lives.

This year, on Friday evening, January 22, over 500 friends of labor joined together at the San Jose Hyatt House to celebrate the centennial of the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council. Certificates of honor were given to 100 retired workers, recognizing their notable contributions to Santa Clara Valley labor. John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, gave a stirring keynote talk about the broad patterns of labor history in California, and

everyone saw a preview of the California History Center's labor history exhibit in a mini-exhibition prepared by our labor history project intern George Gastil. As an added bonus, the banquet raised almost \$10,000 for our exhibit, bringing our total project revenue to just under \$25,000.

During the past year we have completed some 30 oral history interviews, gathered research materials from a wide variety of archives and private collections, and are now gathering artifacts, photographs, and other memorabilia for our feature exhibit which will open this fall. The Centennial Banquet simply begins a year of celebration for Santa Clara Valley labor.

This spring we are sponsoring three special lectures on labor history. On April 13, Dr. Glenna Matthews will speak at San Jose State University on organizing the valley's cannery workers during the 1930s. On April 20, Dr. Don Garnel will talk at San Jose City College about labor trends in the valley since 1960. And, on May 15, Sunday afternoon, the history center hosts a special panel presentation: Dr. Robert Cherney will speak about racial exclusion in the San Francisco labor movement between 1900 and 1935, Dr. Vicki Ruiz will discuss the experience of Mexican-American cannery workers during the 1930s and 1940s. Both presentations will receive the close scrutiny of labor journalist and author, David Selvin.

I hope you will join us in these and other forthcoming activities. If you have artifacts or memorabilia which you might loan or donate for the exhibit, please call me. Thank you for your continued support, and please drop by the center this spring.

**James C. Williams**

Executive Director



### *Cover Photo*

*The Cornish miner brought with them from Cornwall, England the technology and know-how which made it possible to remove the gold laden quartz from deep within the bowels of the earth. They also brought many colorful traditions and superstitions, which remain as part of their legacy. Photo courtesy California Bureau of Mines.*

*Members of the Tien Loong Gung Fu club of San Francisco helped herald the opening of the Chinese in Monterey exhibit on January 23 by performing a traditional lion dance to ward off evil spirits. The exhibit opening was attended by over 200 people who enjoyed traditional Chinese pastries and candies and who strolled through this wonderful exhibit. The exhibit will be at the history center through March 26. Photo by John Rickman.*

# CALENDAR

**4/4 De Anza College classes begin**

**4/16 "After the Gold Rush" exhibit opening.**

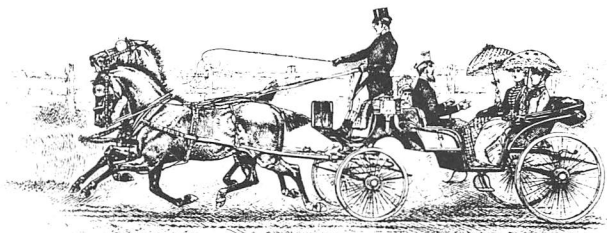
1:00-4:00 p.m. at the California History Center Trianon. Opening events include gold panning, a blacksmith demonstration, and a talk by historian J. S. Holliday. Guests include several of the old-timers who were interviewed for the project. There is no charge, but please make reservations by 4/11.

**4/23-34 Gilded Promises: Gold Country Tour.**

The bus departs at 8:00 a.m. Saturday and returns at 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Lee Van Fossen leads this trip to the Grass Valley/Nevada City area to visit Malakoff Diggings and Empire Mine State Historic Park and the North Star Mine. Cost for CHC members \$85; non-members \$99 includes transportation, double-occupancy lodging, park fees, Sunday lunch, and honorarium. Reservation and payment due 3/21.

**4/30 A Walk Across California — Native Plants**

8:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Join naturalist Donna Zetterquist for visits to Tilden Regional Parks Botanic Garden and the Sunol Regional Wilderness where you will enjoy and learn to identify many of California's native plants. Cost to CHC members \$28; non-members \$35 includes transportation, park fees, and honorarium. Reservation and payment due 4/22.



**5/7 An Excursion on the Geyserville Stage.**

6:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Depart from the original Geyserville stage stop aboard a restored historic stage (c. 1870s) for a unique trip through the vineyards of the Alexander Valley. You will visit three wineries and two restored historic homes and enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch. Cost to CHC members \$65 and non-members \$75 includes bus to Geyserville, stage ride, picnic, and all fees. Reservation and payment due 4/20.

**5/20 "The Washoe Peepstone"**

7:30 p.m. on the De Anza College campus. California on Stage presents the staged reading of John Robinson's play based on the life of nineteenth century seeress Eilly Orrum Bowers. In the play, she summons the spirits of a Comstock miner's ancestors during a seance. Cost to members \$5 and non-members \$7; remaining tickets may be purchased at the door for \$7.

**5/30 Memorial Day observed.**

De Anza classes do not meet. CHC closed.

**6/5 De Anza Day.**

10:00-4:00 p.m. The history center is open during De Anza College's annual community event. Special activities include gold panning. No fee.

**6/18 Exhibit closes.**

**6/24 Spring quarter ends.**

**July 1 through August 31: CHC closed for the summer.**

## Of Interest to Members

**Japanese Photography in America, 1920-1940**, exhibit of rare photographs by West Coast Japanese American photographers working between the two world wars, Oakland Museum, through March 23.

**A Woman's Work is Never Done**, exhibit, Campbell Historical Museum, downtown Campbell, through April 23.

**Monterey Adobe Tour**, April 30, contact Monterey History and Art Association Ltd., Monterey.

**The Eloquent Object**, exhibit, wood, ceramic, fiber, glass and metal works of art by contemporary artists, Oakland Museum, through May 15.

**Wilhelm Hester: Marine Photographs on Puget Sound 1893-1905**, exhibit, National Maritime Museum, San Francisco, through May 31.



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# CULTURAL PRESERVATION

## After the Gold Rush — Mining in Nevada County

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**After the Gold Rush**, the history center's spring quarter exhibit which opens on April 16, presents a photographic, historical overview of Nevada County from the turn-of-the-century to the closure of the Empire Mine in 1956. Nevada County, near Lake Tahoe in Northern California, developed as a series of mining camps. The economy of the county revolved around mining until the failed negotiations of a mid-1950s labor dispute closed the Empire.

Many old timers, presently in their 70s, 80s and 90s who worked together in the Nevada County gold mines, are featured in this exhibit through photographs and excerpts from oral histories. Some of these miners are descendents of the original "'49ers" of the world's first international gold rush, and while much has been written and presented regarding the gold rush of the mid-nineteenth century, very little has been presented to the American public on early 20th century gold mining history.

The exhibit covers all of the gold mines in the county; however, the Empire Mine complex, located in Grass Valley, was the largest not only in Nevada County but in the entire state and possibly the country. During its century of operation, the Empire produced 5.8 million ounces of gold and there are some who say that at least that much is still under the ground. At today's prices (approximately \$300 per ounce) this would be equal to 1 billion, 740 million dollars worth of gold. However, due to the cost of reopening the mine and certain environmental issues, the Empire remains closed.

Artifacts in the exhibit will include mining hats, examples of different kinds of lighting worn on the hats, lighting implements, giant drill bits, originals of paychecks, postcards, a model of the Idaho-Maryland Mine and a Cornish miner's three-tiered lunch bucket.

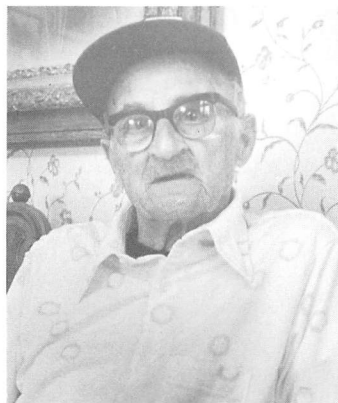
**After the Gold Rush** is one part of a multi-faceted project on Nevada County's heritage, funded in part by grants from the California Council for the Humanities and the Skaggs Foundation. The project is being directed by Dianna Resinkov with Dr. Tom King, head of the oral history program at the University of Nevada, Reno, directing the oral history program. Other facets of the project include a PBS film for a new series premiering in Fall, 1988, a book on the history of the county told largely through oral histories, an oral history library and a heritage project for Nevada County schools.

The exhibit receives its premier showing at the California History Center. Opening activities include gold panning and blacksmith demonstrations and a panel discussion with historian Dr. Jim Holliday, author of **The World Rushed In**.

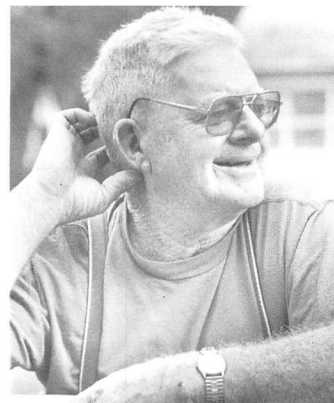
**After the Gold Rush** will be at the history center through Saturday, June 18.



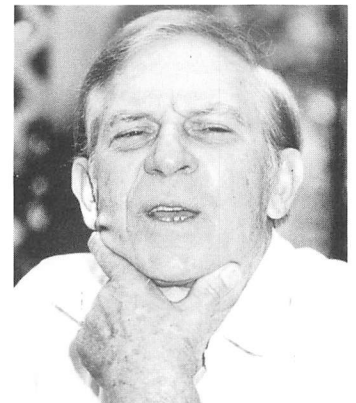
*Left: Jack Clark worked as a safety engineer at the Idaho Maryland Mine and is currently writing a book about the history of the mine. Photo by Charles S. Finlay.*



*Right: Bill Corin immigrated to this country from Cornwall and worked as a pumpman at the Empire Mine. Photo by Sharon O'Brien.*

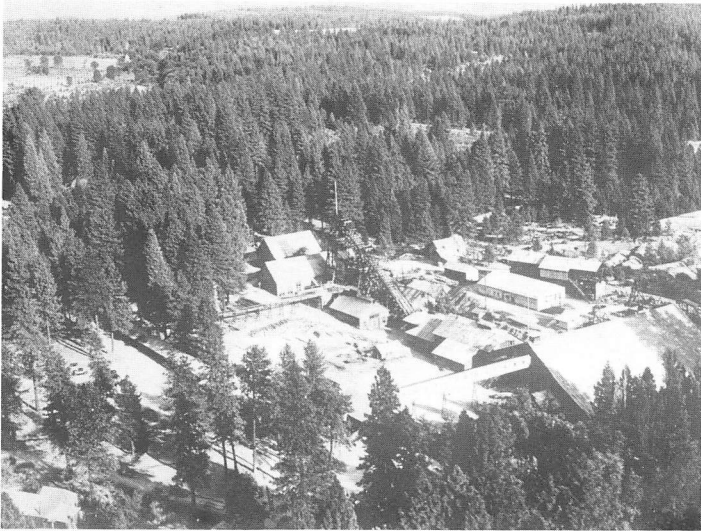


*Left: Bob Partington retired as a gas service man. Photo by Sharon O'Brien.*



*Right: Leonard Bednorz, retired miner, currently working as a construction consultant. Photo by Sharon O'Brien.*





*Aerial view of the Empire Mine circa 1941. Photo by Ken and Stanley Nobs.*



*These cramped cable car skips were how the miners were taken into the mines and brought back to the surface. The collar of the mine is the surface entrance to the mine shaft. Each miner was paid, "collar to collar," four to five dollars per 8-hour day. Photo courtesy Empire Mine State Historic Park.*



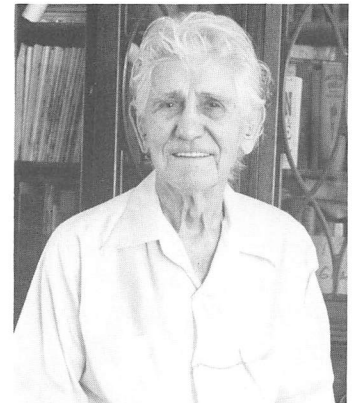
*Left: Fred Tremewan is a retired machinist from the North Star Mine. Photo by Sharon O'Brien.*



*Right: James "Cap" Davis worked in many of the mines in Nevada County and did a stint building tunnels for the Navy in Hawaii during World War II. Photo by Sharon O'Brien.*



*Left: Phil Keast, who is self-educated, retired as head mechanical engineer at the Empire Mine. Photo by Charles S. Finlay.*



*Right: Leo Holub, Sr. was a blacksmith at the Golden Center Mine in Grass Valley. The 95-year-old Holub will give the blacksmith demonstration at the exhibit opening. Photo courtesy Leo Holub, Jr.*

## The Cornish Miners

by William L. Palmer

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“GOLD IN ROCK!” This was the clarion call, back in October of 1850, when a young boy brought the exciting news down to the miners in Boston Ravine, near Grass Valley, California. He went on to report that George Knight (or, McKnight) had found a piece of gold-laced quartz rock over on what was later to be called Gold Hill. The new area quickly swarmed with placer miners, all rushing to lay out square surface claims, as had been their custom. However, unlike placer gold, which lay loose in the stream beds, specimen pieces taken from these new-found surface outcroppings had to first be pounded with hand mortars in order to release their treasures. This was a lot of work, but many claims were soon yielding \$500, or more a ton.

As they dug deeper and deeper into the hillsides, following particular quartz veins, it soon became obvious that they were ignorant of the nature of quartz ledges and how to work them. They knew little of underground geological conditions, or of proper recovery methods. And all too frequently, they found that below the surface, particular veins they were following had dipped or twisted under adjacent claims, or worse, the vein fractured and was lost altogether.

However, in spite of these problems, by 1852 several primitive stamp mills had been built to support this new kind of mining. These were a series of drop-hammer like devices which crushed the quartz rock to release the gold. Unfortunately, these new mills charged the miners \$50 for every ton of quartz they reduced. This made most of these initial quartz mining ventures costly failures, since the miners were only paid about \$12 a day.

Thus, it was their inexperience with hard rock mining, plus the expensive difficulties they had getting the gold separated from the quartz, which caused many of the early miners to abandon their hard rock “diggings” and go back to what they felt were more easily worked placer claims.

Hard rock mining sort of limped along until the arrival of the Cornish miners in the early to mid 1850s. No one knows just when they began to arrive, since no records exist of the exact date. And that initial trickle seemed to swell rather slowly until the late 1860s when they began to arrive in large numbers. Many settled in Grass Valley and the surrounding areas specifically to work in the hard rock mines.



*A hoisting station in a mine was the place where men, supplies, waste rock and ore were raised and lowered to various levels of the mine. The bell signal system, left, was a way to communicate with people in the mines. A certain number of “rings” had a specific meaning for miners. Photo courtesy California Bureau of Mines.*

The Cornish brought with them centuries of underground mining experience gained in the tin and copper mines of Cornwall. They could not only drill, blast, and timber, but they also brought with them a great deal of empirical experience to the solution of such subterranean mysteries as shifting lodes and pinched-out veins. And with this solid foundation of knowledge, it wasn't long before they revolutionized hard rock gold mining methods in California. Soon Grass Valley and Nevada City had become internationally known as the “Mecca of the Mining World.”

It was around the turn of the century that a visitor once described his arrival in Grass Valley. He wrote that it was “like stepping into an unknown foreign country. For fully three-fourths of the people were of Cornish birth or descent, and they arrived with their own peculiar, almost unintelligible, cockneyish dialect and mining language.”

Even today, many of the words and phrases used in underground mining are of Cornish origin. Hanging wall and foot wall, are typical examples. (These are rock faces between which the gold-laden quartz veins are sandwiched.) One local story tells of a miner who, in a cafe, ordered a piece of apple pie for dessert. He found his piece to be so thin that the top and bottom crusts almost touched. He called the waitress over and in disgust complained: "Ye'd best take this back, 'cause the 'angin wall and foot wall's too close together to be worth minin' out!"

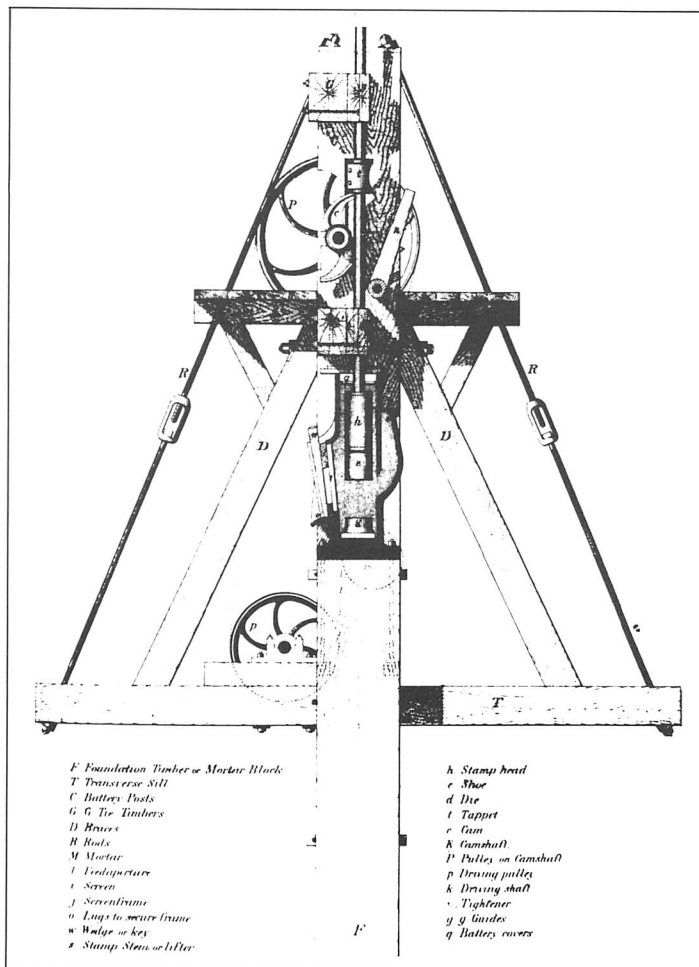
Cornishmen in those days were everywhere referred to as "Cousin Jacks." The origin of this term is in some dispute, but the most popular theory has it that John was as common among the Cornish as Patrick was among the Irish immigrants. Thus, whenever a mine superintendent announced that he intended to take on more hands, every man of the crew would ask: "Would 'e have a job 'ere for me Cousin Jack?"

Their mining skills were such that it almost seemed as if they could "smell a rich body of ore." This was exemplified in a story told of one Cornish captain, at the Empire Mine. In those days, a captain was equivalent in rank and pay to the later superintendent. It seems that the mining engineers and expert geologists had all become convinced that the main Empire vein was lost and would never be found again. They were reporting this to the mine superintendent, George Starr. The Cousin Jack simply stood quietly by until they were through, then he said "Put 'er in 'ere, George." And he indicated where he thought a new drift should be started. As a result, they soon ran into the biggest and richest ore body discovered to date in that mine.

Another Cornish miner gained the nickname of "Old Velvet Thumb" for his uncanny ability to detect small bits of quartz shot through with small specks or flakes of gold in the darkness of a drift simply by its feel.

Occurrences like these, along with many others, have been recounted time and again over the years. "Do 'ee think you be able to smell 'er now?" was a common query among the miners.

The dress and equipment of Cornish hard rock miners in the late 1800s varied somewhat with the locality and conditions underground. Generally though, like most of the miners of the time, they wore a set of short-sleeved long johns, and a heavy-weave woolen shirt which was, sort of, tucked into a pair of baggy trousers (which seemingly had no visible means of support). These in-turn were tucked into a pair of high top rubber boots, because of the dampness in most mines in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area.

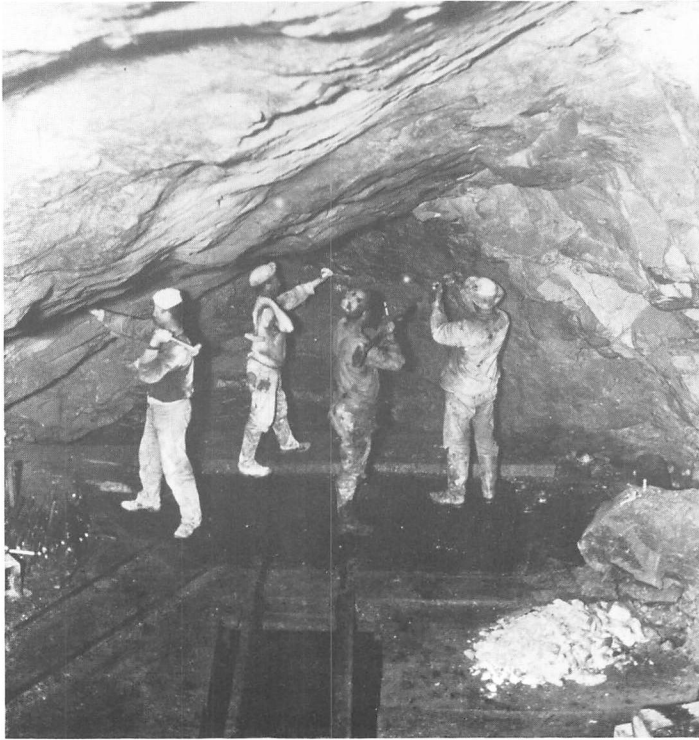


Side view of stamp mill. Photo courtesy California Bureau of Mines.

Regulation safety hats came along much later; most early miners rounded out their attire by donning a battered felt hat which had been stiffened with resin. These had a moderately wide brim, and gave the miner at least SOME protection from those painful cranial encounters with the overhead.

The company usually furnished each miner with three candles. These provided a combined burning time of approximately ten hours. Two were stored in either the miner's bootleg, or they would occasionally carry them wicks-down in their back pocket. Many a miner who forgot to insert them wicks down, would discover (the hard way), that another miner had lighted them as a practical joke, while they were still in his back pocket.





*The two men on the right are double jacking, where one man holds the drill steel while the other swings the sledge. The men on the left are single jacking. Photo courtesy California Bureau of Mines.*

The third candle was inserted in a glassed lantern for transportation down windy shafts and galleries. Once they arrived at their assigned face or station, they would remove the candle from the lantern and insert it into a characteristically shaped wrought-iron holder. These holders were equipped with a long horizontal spike and a pointed vertical hook. They could thus be either stuck into a mine timber or simply hooked on a slight rock outcropping.

Any extra candles, or unburned stubs, would be used to heat the miner's lunch pails. They would first drive three or more long nails into a piece of board, then place an extra candle in the center. They would set their lunch baskets on top as if it were a chafing dish.

Cornish lunch buckets were round and made with three nesting compartments — the bottom part contained their tea. In the middle part was a pastie, a kind of meat and vegetable turnover. A saffron bun was placed in the top part.

Usually, about 45 minutes to an hour before lunch, one of the muckers would be assigned to set and light the candles to warm up the lunches. The candle heated the tea, and this in turn warmed the pastie above.

Occasionally, there'd be a lunch bucket with the bottom compartment tightly sealed with tape. Woe be unto the man who heated THAT bucket and ruined the beer which the owner had so carefully packaged!

Prior to the introduction of pneumatic drills to mining in 1875, drilling was accomplished by hand sledging of simple steels. It was called "single jacking" when done by one man alone using a four-pound sledge. The sledge was attached to the miner's wrist with a leather thong. With his other hand he held the steel, turning it 90 degrees with each blow of the hammer. Two men made up a "double jacking" team. One man held and turned the steel while the other pounded away using an eight-pound sledge.

The stroke was a steady 50 beats per minute. As a drill became dull, the man turning would extend a finger as a signal to stop. The steel was pulled and changed and the team members would exchange positions. Obviously, each man had the complete confidence of his partner's skills at both positions, for a broken arm or a ruined hand would be the price paid for an instant's inattention, especially in the candle-lit gloom of a drift.

The Cornish miners, like the legendary John Henry, were fiercely proud of their steel driving skills, and intense competitions were held to determine local champions, particularly on the 4th of July. These drilling contests became highly organized public events, with uniform rules universally accepted throughout the mining west. Winners from each district could then compete in national eliminations for substantial monetary prizes.

Both single and double jacking events were performed on a block of stone six feet thick and dressed flat. Tradition held that it had to be only Gunnison granite from Colorado.

Teams would practice for months — to get to where they could not only change steel, but also exchange places without losing a beat — which incidently, increased to about 80 beats per minute during these contests. It need hardly be mentioned that "upon occasion" where would be "a bit o' wagerin" on favorite teams.



*Single jacking was the earlier method of drilling in preparation for blasting. Photo courtesy California Bureau of Mines.*

The drillers were usually given fifteen minutes to drill as deeply as possible. Having a steel jam in an invisible flaw in the granite block was simply considered hard luck. But if the steel broke off in the hole because of poor tempering, it was the team's own fault and that most generally put them out of the competition. This was because a broken bit either jammed the hole beyond redemption, or it had to be drilled through by another steel, at great cost in effort and fatal loss of time.

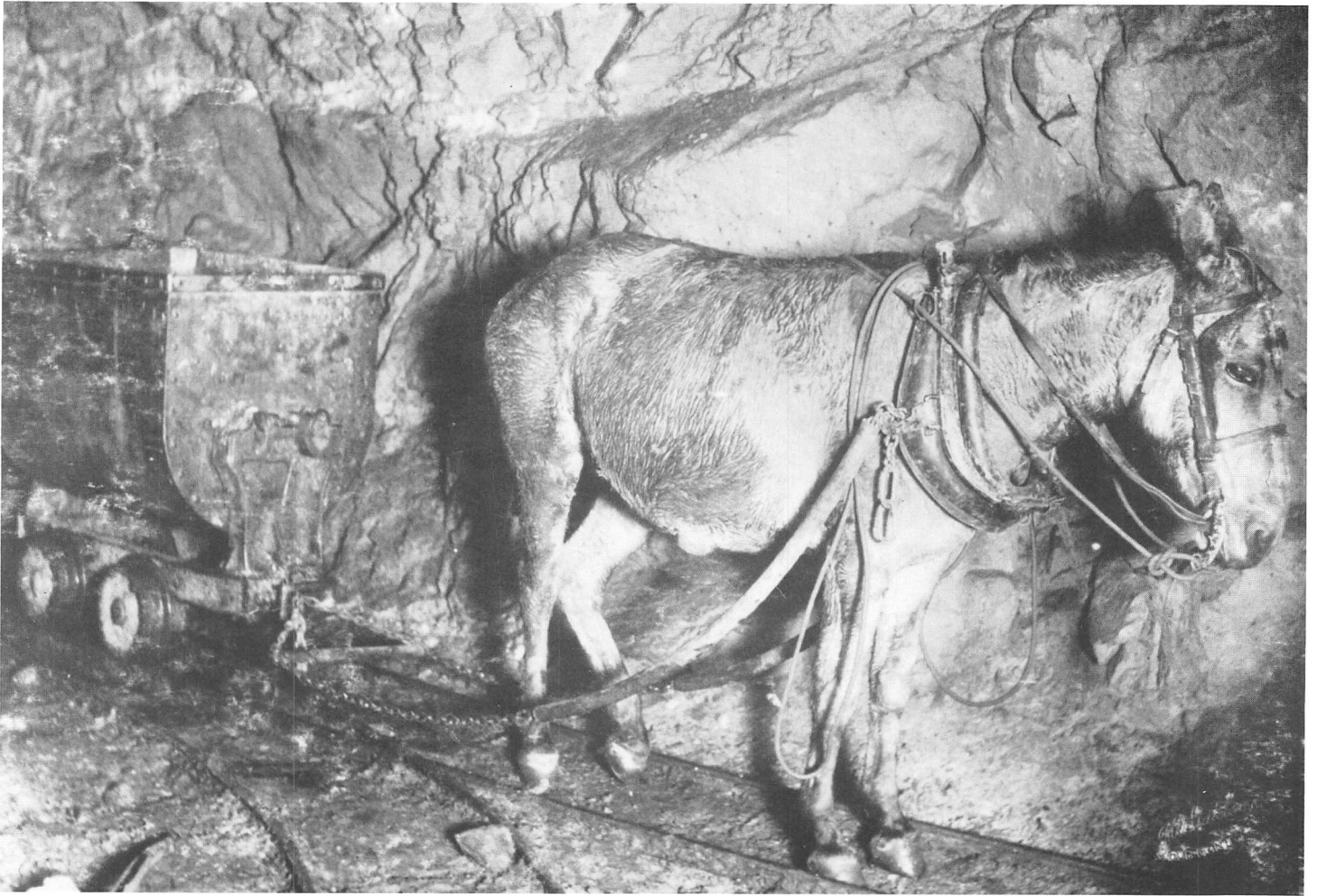
To illustrate just how seriously these early Cornish miners regarded these tests of skill, here is what one young bride saw back in the early mining days of Tonopah, Nevada. She had been watching the drilling contests, and was fascinated by everything she saw: the various techniques, their grace, endurance, speed and most fascinating of all — the danger. For if the hammer should descend only a fraction of an inch out of line and miss that tiny drill head, a man's hand could be crushed.

And that is just what happened, for “. . . suddenly the hammer poised in midair. The crowd groaned, knowing what had occurred. After an instant flinch, the man crouched over the drill looked up at his towering partner and yelled ‘Come on down you!’ Down

again came the hammer. The men cheered and the women cried. The hand on the drill began to turn red, but it still held on to the drill. When the injured man's turn came to rise and hold the hammer, the blood crept down his arm until it looked as if it had been thrust into a pot of red paint. The blood ran into the hole and mixed with the water from the hose. Everytime the hammer descended, the red fluid sloshed up and splattered nearby onlookers. The man sagged lower after every blow, but he never gave up until the timer's hand signalled fifteen minutes. Then he fell over in a dead faint. The platform looked like a slaughtering block.”

At the end of the 15 minutes, the last steel would be pulled and the miners could relax while a steel measuring rod was inserted into the hole. A sliding ring clamp was slipped down to touch the surface of the block, tightened and the length was carefully measured. Results would then be marked on a scoreboard, and a roar from the crowd could be heard as each event's winner was announced.

Today, at various western mine sites, like the New Almaden, here in San Jose, one can still see blocks of granite pockmarked with holes of varying depths. Usually they are found standing stark and alone — out of place. Yet they are another reminder of our Western mining heritage.



*Mules were an integral part of hard rock mining and once lowered into the depths of the mine as young animals, they frequently spent their entire working lives without ever being returned to the surface. They lived in underground barns when not working. Photo courtesy California Bureau of Mines.*

Any discussion of the Cornish miners should include mention of the “Tommyknockers.” These were legendary elfin characters who, as best described by one old Cornishman, “’ave the miner’s best interests at ’art.” He went on to say: “We brought ’em from Cornwall; they make the mines safe when we go ’ome. They do be a cross between a gnome and a brownie with a dash of leprechaun among ’em.”

The Tommyknockers took their name from their characteristic tapping on timbers in the mine as a means of warning miners of an impending cave-in. The following brings out the sinister omen of the tappings:

n’ we leave the ’aunted place  
 Fro’ we won’t work w’ere they be.  
 An w’ever we ’ear them knocking  
 We sure wull always flee.

For it means w’ever ’ears it  
 Will be the next in line.  
 For the pick-pick of the Tommyknockers  
 Is the last and awful sign.

Like the Gremlins of World War II, these little creatures also often performed such pranks as hiding tools, jamming drills or tampering with fuses. They were also blamed when suddenly the candles were blown out in the mines.

With the closing of the mines in 1956, the days of the Cornish miners here in California’s gold mines pretty well went into history. But if you should happen to travel up to the Grass Valley/Nevada City area, you can still recognize some of their names, for those with the prefix: “Tre, Pol, or Pen – These are the names of Cornishmen.”

*Palmer has taught gold mining history for the history center since the mid-1970s. His classes take field trips to Grass Valley/Nevada City regularly.*



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# EDUCATION

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## State and Regional History

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*The following classes are being offered by the history center during spring quarter, 1988. For complete details and registration information please see the De Anza College Schedule of classes.*

### **History of Film Making:** *Brian Smith*

History of Film Making in California examines the long term effects this industry has had upon California. Although credit for the development of the "motion pictures" was given to Thomas A. Edison and George Eastman at the 1883 World's Fair in Chicago, Eadweard Muybridge conducted experiments in this media for California Governor Leland Stanford during 1872. By 1907, several producers, actors and cameramen had traveled to California to free themselves from injunctions placed upon them by Edison and his companies. In California the weather was better for filming and labor costs were lower. By 1923 over 20,000 actors were working in over 260 studios. Motion pictures had come to stay in the Golden State. Two Saturday and one four-day field trip planned.

### **Scots in California:** *Lori Lehtola*

Scots in California looks at the conditions which existed in Scotland that caused so many of its people to leave their beloved country and find a new life elsewhere. Taught by CHC newcomer Lori Lehtola, who recently received her master's degree in Medieval history, the course will cover the history of clans, the names and games of our Scottish ancestors and the Highland Games that take place throughout the state and keep alive the exciting and colorful traditions of Scotland. In addition, you will study the lives of prominent Scottish pioneers and their influence on California's heritage, including Andrew Hallidie, John Muir and John McLaren among others. The course will culminate with a Scottish evening complete with pipers, dancing and traditional Scottish fare. Two Saturday field trips included.

### **The Summit to Santa Cruz:** *Chatham Forbes*

The Other Side of the Mountain: the Summit, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz looks at the colorful history of the roads and settlements south from the Santa Cruz Gap summit to the Monterey Bay. Transportation, lumbering, agriculture, cattle ranching, mining and recreation have sustained men on this beautiful terrain for well over a century. Two Saturday field trips included.

### **Mendocino County:** *Jim Williams*

Mendocino History Experience explores the colorful history of Mendocino County, home of the Pomo Indians and a center for California's logging industry. Students will spend a weekend in Mendocino County. On Saturday, Mendocino County Museum Director Mark Rawitsch will join the class to provide a behind the scenes tour of one of the most highly acclaimed county history museums in California. On Sunday students will reconvene in Ukiah at the Sun House, home of Grace Carpenter Hudson, the noted painter who devoted her career to studying the Pomo Indians. Museum Director Suzanne Abel-Vidor will give the class a personal tour.

### **Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mtns.:** *Tom Taber*

Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mtns. provides an opportunity for the first-hand study of California's natural history. Taught by the author of the "Santa Cruz Mtns. Trailbook" and "Where to See Wildlife in California," the class will focus on the general topography, climate, plants, animals and spring wildflowers of the Western Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Saturday walking tours to Long Ridge and La Honda Creek Open Space Districts and Butano State Park.

### **History of Point Reyes:** *Lee Van Fossen*

History of Point Reyes is an exploration of the natural history and historical areas in the vicinity of Point Reyes National Seashore. Discussions will center around the historical uses and misuses of the mudflats, rocky tidepools, bird life and the Farallon Islands. Students will visit the site where Francis Drake beached his ship in 1579 to make repairs and see recent finds which suggest that Drake and S. R. Cermeno traded with the Chinese. The class will discuss the role of the Spanish, Mexican, Russian and Yankee in relationship to the Point Reyes area. Three Saturday field trips included.

### **Treasures of the Bay:** *Betty Hirsch*

Treasures of the Bay traces the history and evolution of the San Francisco Bay, its major islands, its wetlands and wildlife preserves, and will examine its overall impact on the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Included are Mare Island, Vallejo Naval Historical Museum, California Maritime Academy, Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Angel Island, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Alameda Island.

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**Westward to California:** *Bill Palmer*

Westward to Californias looks at the American West during that period when it was a dynamic concept — moving beyond the Missouri, along the Plains, to, and over the Sierra to California — always ahead of the trappers like Jedediah Smith, the Indians of the Plains and Deserts, pony expressmen and the overland stage. Through a series of lectures and a long weekend field trip, the class will prove that this concept of a dynamic and expanding West did not come to an end in the Golden State. It still exists and will continue to endure with the stories of people like Lewis and Clark, Chief Red Cloud and Cynthia Ann Parker.

**Drake in California:** *Hugh Thomas*

Sir Francis Drake in California traces the general background of European exploration and expansion in the 16th century; the development and growth of England during the Tudor period; antagonism between England and Spain; the English privateers and personal career of Drake, who circumnavigated the world, landing in California. One Saturday field trip to Drake's Bay included.

**California and the Wine World:** *Charles Sullivan*

California and the Wine World introduces the student to the major wine styles and types of Europe, tracing their historical development and the development of their counterparts in California. The thrust of the course is historical, with special emphasis on the evolution of California wine types and the use of specific grape varieties. Where appropriate, wines from other parts of North America and the rest of the world outside Europe will be studied. After each major unit there will be a comparative evaluation of the wines studied, both current and older examples. Sullivan is a noted wine historian and author of the acclaimed CHC publication "Like Modern Edens: Winegrowing in the Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mtns."

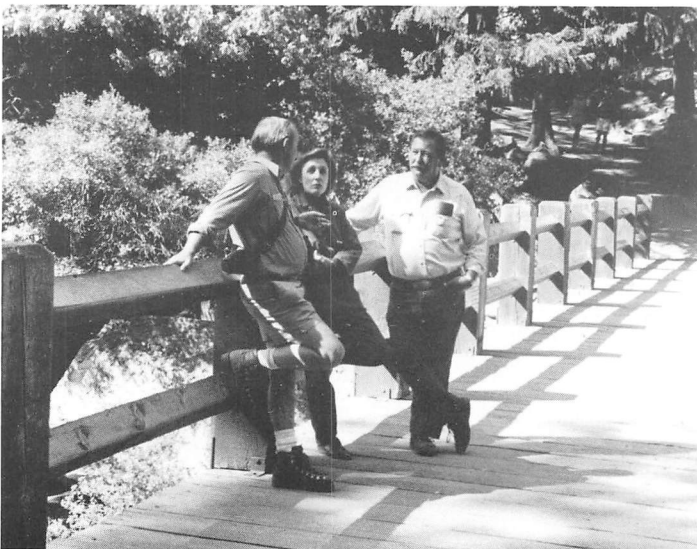
**Victorian Homes:** *Mardi Bennett*

Victorian Homes of Santa Clara County, taught by nationally known preservationist Mardi Gualtierri Bennett, will be a "building watcher's" survey course of the existing Victorian-style homes built in Santa Clara County from 1850 to 1905 — their variety of styles, building materials and locations. On-site inspection of Victorian neighborhoods in Los Gatos, San Jose and Santa Clara will provide practical experience in identifying the various local examples of Victorian architecture. Bennett, former mayor of Los Gatos, directs her own preservation consulting firm, has presented preservation incentive tax seminars for colleges and writes about California historic resources.

**Seacoast of Bohemia:** *Betty Hirsch*

The Seacoast of Bohemia traces the period between 1905-1914 when Carmel-by-the-Sea flourished as a lively artist colony. Among its colorful residents were poet George Sterling, photographer Arnold Genthe, novelist Mary Austen and writer Ambrose Bierce. Frequent visitors who joined the residents seeking congenial company and an uninhibited atmosphere included Jack London, Joaquin Miller, Sinclair Lewis, Upton Sinclair and other luminaries of the period. This class will chronicle their bohemian life and philosophy of alternately working hard and playing hard. A trip to Carmel includes the Forest Theatre, a walking tour of town and a tour of the Tor house, built by Robinson Jeffers.

*Instructor Lee Van Fossen, left, chats with Harry and Janet Johnson during the CHC's fall 1987 trip to Yosemite. They were on a walk to Nevada Falls. Photo by Jane Herold.*



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# FOUNDATION NOTES

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## In Memoriam



*Photo of Rose Zammar Olson taken c. 1940 with hand-packed prize Bing cherries at Olson farm in Sunnyvale.*

Rose Zammar Olson, resident of Sunnyvale since 1929, passed away on Sunday, January 10 at the age of 83. She and her late husband R. C. Olson became noted for their world famous Bing cherries, grown and sold in Sunnyvale. The Olson Family has been longtime supporters of the California History Center and a Rose Olson Memorial Fund has been established at the history center in her memory. If you would like to contribute to the

Olson memorial fund, a check may be sent to the history center. The following people are donors to the Rose Olson Memorial Fund.

Lottie Abdou  
George and Yoko Aihara  
Bianchi Family  
Eugene Butcher Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Butcher  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Canaan  
William and Sharron Carleton  
Linda Craig  
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Karen (De Lury) Robinson Family  
George Rodriguez  
Loretta Stager  
Miriam Stelling  
Dianna Stern  
Rev. and Mrs. R. Tinker  
Valco Park Ltd.  
Stephen and Lois White  
Charles and Hannah Wiseman

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## Two Rare Books For Sale

The center has duplicate copies of two rare books that it is offering for sale to the membership. While both books are in need of some repair, rebinding for one, they are both intact. One book is "History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties, California (1418 pp.)." This book, written by J. M. Guinn in 1902 is an historical story of the state's marvelous growth. The CHC has been offered \$115 for the book by a rare book dealer.

"Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World, or Santa Clara County (672 pp.)," edited by Horace Foote in 1888 is a history of the county beautifully written and illustrated. We have been offered \$75 for this book.

The center will accept bids from members until June 1, 1988. At that time the books will be sold to the person giving the highest bid over what we have already been offered. The books are available to look at and browse through at the CHC library during normal working hours, Monday through Friday.

## Retreat Planned for March

Staff and trustees of the history center are preparing for a retreat in mid-March to review the mission of the history center, update and revise the goals and objectives and implement a plan to carry out those goals and objectives. Members should have received a survey in early February which we hope you took the time to complete and send back to us.

Utilizing the results of the membership survey and the ideas of the staff and trustees, the center is hoping to strengthen and improve its programs and activities to better serve you. The outcome of the retreat will be published in a future edition of *The Californian*.



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## Labor Lecture Series

These lectures are offered by the CHCF, San Jose State University, and San Jose City College as a part of the Santa Clara Valley Labor History Project. For more information, call the history center, 996-4712.

- 4/13, San Jose State University: Glenna Matthews (U.C. Irvine) speaks on San Jose cannery workers in the 1930s.  
4/20, San Jose City College: Economist Don Garnel (SJSC) addresses labor trends since 1960.  
5/15, De Anza College: Robert Cherney (SFSU) speaks on racial exclusion in the San Francisco labor movement, 1900-1935. Vicki Ruiz (U.C. Davis) speaks on Mexican-American cannery workers and the labor movement in the 1930s and 40s. David F. Selvin, labor journalist and author, offers comments.

## Contributors to the Santa Clara Valley Labor History Project

J. H. Morgan  
Richard Scopel  
Carpenters Union Local 668  
Constance Langford  
Santa Clara Valley District Council of Carpenters  
Terri Owen  
Joan and Ron Enslie  
EOPS, De Anza College

## Volunteer Profile



*Mary Jane working as a docent, De Anza Day, 1985. Photo by David Fox.*

Mary Jane Givens has been a dedicated docent/volunteer at the history center since we opened our first exhibit in the fall of 1979. Her association with the history center however goes back to the early 1970s when she started taking classes at De Anza. Her love of history brought her into contact with the people and classes at the California History Center.

Mary Jane was born and raised in Kokomo, Indiana. She took over her father's locksmith business when she was 19 and ran a locksmith/small mechanical electrical repair shop until she married Ken Givens when she was 23 years old.

The Givens traveled the country from Massachusetts to Hawaii during Ken's service career settling in California in 1967 and the Santa Clara Valley in 1970. During all of these traveling years Mary Jane stayed busy raising their three daughters.

When she isn't giving a tour of a CHC exhibit or talking about the programs and activities of the history center to a service club, Mary Jane finds time to travel and sing with a singing group.

"The history center has a unique, wonderful way of teaching history to people and I love imparting some of what I've learned by being a docent for exhibits and participating in the center's speaker's bureau program." Mary Jane was also the center's first volunteer coordinator, serving in that position from 1979-1984.

It is because of the dedication of volunteers like Mary Jane Givens that the center can provide such a wonderful variety of activities to our community. Thank you Mary Jane for your time and energy.

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## Pledge Night Possibilities

The CHC may have the opportunity this year to participate in a pledge night with KTEH, Channel 54. This PBS affiliate is based in San Jose and has pledge weeks four times during the year. The center is presently talking with KTEH about staffing its pledge telephones for one night during the March or June pledge weeks. This would be an excellent opportunity for some media exposure for the center's programs. So if you are watching Channel 54 sometime in the near future and see some familiar faces, it may be a volunteer, trustee or staff member from the history center.

## New Members

### Sponsor

Mardi Bennett

### Supporter

Michael Mahoney

### Family

Jaynie and Michael Caraway, Kenneth and Evelyn Comstock, William and Katherine Duffy, Duane and Marlene Heinz, Janet Ilacqua, Deanna Liotta, Richard and Ann Waltons-Smith, Craig Williams

### Individual

Ann Burman, Violet Butler, Alfred Chasuk, Rose Crimi, Harriet Duzet, Jack Eisen, Dorothy Emerick, Margaret Kennison, Donald Ladd, Wilda Layton, Kathleen Schwartz, Nelda Stauffer, Katherine Tobin, Josephine Wiley

## Renewing Members

### Patron

Austen Warburton

### Sponsor

Joseph and Doris Adamo, Maury Dunbar, William and Yvonne Jacobson, Louis and Violet Paviso, Linda Quintero, Roy and Catherine Roberts, Hart and Emily Tantau, Lorin Trubschenck, Ward and Holly Winslow, Genevieve Ziegler

### Supporter

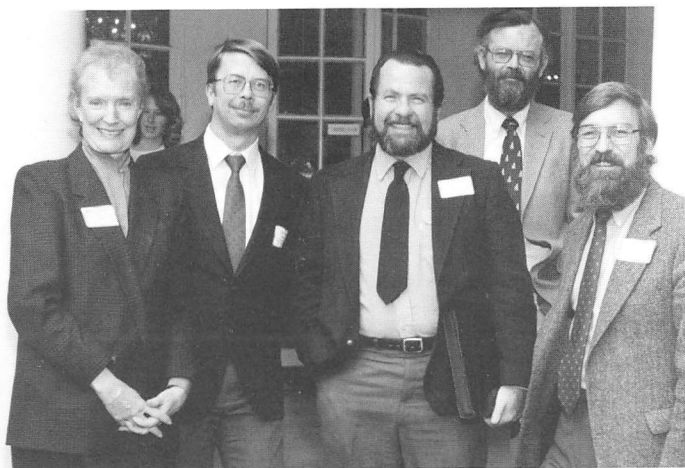
Bruce and Lynn Bowen, Robert and Rochelle Lowenthal, Anita Messina, James and Virginia Rutherford

### Family

Gary and Jean Bronstein, Philip and Phyllis Bunnelle, Elizabeth Diether, Sharon Fingold, Vince and Jane Garrod, Anna Lisa Hemphill, Richard and Judith Herz, Elliott and Tillie Hinely, George and Julia Holtzinger, James and Colleen Hunts, Robert and Claris MacConnell, Kenneth and Madeleine Malvos, Gladys and A. D. McFarland, William and Margaret Nagel, Edward and Joanne Preston, Robert Reese, Stephen and Elizabeth Salveter, Louis and Jewel Smaus, Frank and Lorene Speth, Edward Waller, James and Doris Williams

### Individual

Nancy Adams, Ann Anger, Mabel Bumgardner, Linda Carlile, George Conner, David Downey, Helen Ewbank, Jean Farran, Donald Fitzgerald, Frances Fox, Geneva Guidotti, Marion Hackley, Merlyn Howell, Carl Jones, Mary Kimball, Jeanette Peterson, Dorothy Porter, Kathie Priebe, Carol Rakich, Freyda Ravitz, Ann Schleich, Barbara Schmidt, Joseph Paul Scholten, F. J. Sexton, Margaret Smith, John Smithson, Betsey Soreff, Dorothy Supan, Zee and Jack Tieger, Paul Trimble, Doris Van Scoy, Anne Welco, Nancy Wright, Lillian Wurzel



*On Friday, January 29 the history center hosted a preservation workshop attended by approximately 65 municipal and county planners and preservationists from throughout the Bay Area. Speakers included left to right: Mardi Bennett, preservation consultant; Joe Hall, senior planner, City of Santa Cruz; Kent Seavey, preservation and rehabilitation specialist; John Merritt, director, California Preservation Foundation and CHC Director Jim Williams. Photo by John Rickman.*

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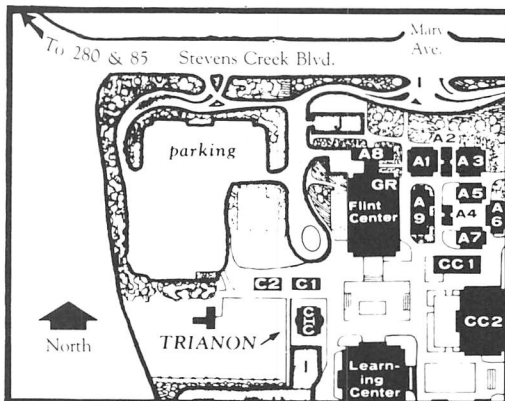
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 996-4712

**Trianon Bldg. Hours:**

Monday–Friday:  
8:00 am–noon, 1:00–4:30 pm  
Closed July and August

**Exhibit Hours:**

Monday–Friday:  
9:00 am–noon, 1:00–4:00 pm  
Docent Tours may be scheduled  
by calling 996-4712.  
Call for Saturday hours.



*The Californian Staff*

Editor  
Kathleen Peregrin  
Printing/Production  
Composite Artts  
David Lippenberger  
Cheryl Kiehlbauch  
Contributing Writers:  
William L. Palmer

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